

L A W

I S A

Bottomless-Pit.

Exemplify'd in the CASE of
The Lord Strutt, John Bull,
Nicholas Frog, and Lewis Baboon.
Who spent all they had in a Law-Suit.

*Printed from a Manuscript found in the Cabinet
of the famous Sir Humphry Polesworth.*

The Third Edition.

L O N D O N :

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Law

Law is a Bottomless-Pit.

CHAP. I.

The Occasion of the Law-Suit.

I Need not tell you of the great Quarrels that have happen'd in our Neighbourhood, since the Death of the late Lord *Strutt* ; how the Parson and a cunning Attorney, got him to settle his Estate upon his Cousin *Philip Baboon*, to the great Disappointment of his Cousin Esquire *South*. Some stick not to say, that the Parson and the Attorney forg'd a Will, for which they were well paid by the Family of the *Baboons* : Let that be as it will, it is matter of Fact, that the Honour and Estate have continued ever since in the Person of *Philip Baboon*.

You know that the Lord *Strutts* have for many Years been possess'd of a very great Landed Estate, well condition'd, wooded, water'd with Coal, Salt, Tin, Copper, Iron, &c. all within themselves ; that it has been the Misfortune of that Family, to be the Property of their Stewards, Tradesmen, and inferior Servants, which has brought great Incumbrances upon them ; at the same time, not abating of their expensive way of Living, has forc'd them to Mortgage their best Manors : It is credibly reported, that the Butchers and Bakers Bills of a Lord *Strutt* that lived Two hundred Years ago, are not yet paid.

When *Philip Baboon* came first to the Possession of the Lord *Strutt's* Estate, his Tradesmen, as is usual
upon

upon such Occasions, waited upon him to wish him Joy, and bespeak his Custom : The two chief were *John Bull* the Clothier, and *Nic. Frog* the Linnen-draper ; they told him, that the *Bulls* and *Frogs* had sery'd the Lord *Strutts* with Drapery Ware for many Years ; that they were honest and fair Dealers ; that their Bills had never been question'd ; that the Lord *Strutts* lived generously, and never used to dirty their Fingers with Pen Ink and Counters ; that his Lordship might depend upon their Honesty, that they would use him as kindly as they had done his Predecessors. The Young Lord seem'd to take all in good part, and dismiss'd them with a deal of seeming Content, assuring them he did not intend to change any of the honourable Maxims of his Predecessors.

C H A P. II.

How Bull and Frog grew jealous that the Lord Strutt intended to give all his Custom to his Grandfather Lewis Baboon.

IT happen'd unfortunately for the Peace of our Neighbourhood, that this Young Lord had an old cunning Rogue (or as the *Scots* call it) a *false Loon*, of a Grandfather, that one might justly call a *Jack of all Trades* ; sometimes you would see him behind his Counter selling Broad Cloath, sometimes measuring Linnen, next Day he would be dealing in Mercery Ware ; high Heads, Ribbons, Gloves, Fans and Lace he understood to a Nicety ; *Charles Mather* could not Bubble a young Beau better with a Toy ; nay, he would descend ev'n to the selling of Tape, Garters, and Shooe-Buckles : When Shop

was

was shut up, he about the Neighbourhood
 and earn Half a C y teaching the young Men
 and Maids to Dan By these Methods he had ac-
 quir'd immense Riches, which he used to squander
 away at Back Sword, Quarter-Staff, and Cudgell-
 Play, in which he took great Pleasure, and chal-
 leng'd all the Country. You will say it is no wonder
 if *Bull* and *Frog* should be jealous of this Fellow.
 ' It is not impossible (says *Frog* to *Bull*) but this
 ' old Rogue will take the Management of the young
 ' Lord's Business into his Hands; besides, the Raf-
 ' cal has good Ware, and will serve him as cheap
 ' as any Body in that Case: I leave you to judge
 ' what must become of us and our Families, we must
 ' starve or turn Journeymen to old *Lewis Baboon*;
 ' therefore, Neighbour, I hold it advisable, that
 ' we write to young Lord *Strutt*, to know the Bot-
 ' tom of this Matter.

CHAP. III.

A Copy of Bull and Frog's Letter to Lord Strutt.

My LORD,

I Suppose your Lordship knows that the Bulls and the
 Frogs have served the Lord Strutts with all Sorts of
 Drapery Ware, time out of Mind; and whereas we are
 jealous, not without Reason, that your Lordship intends
 henceforth to buy of your Grandfire old *Lewis Baboon*;
 this is to inform your Lordship, that this Proceeding does
 not suit with the Circumstances of our Families, who have
 lived and made a good Figure in the World by the Gene-
 rosity of the Lord Strutts: Therefore we think fit to ac-
 quaint your Lordship, that you must find sufficient Security
 to us, our Heirs and Assigns, that you will not employ
Lewis Baboon, or else we will take our Remedy at Law,
 clap an Action upon you of 20000 l. for old Debts, seize
 and

and distrain your Goods and , which, considering your Lordships Circumstances, will plunge you into Difficulties, from which it will not be easie to extricate your self; therefore we hope, when your Lordship has better considered on it, you will comply with the Desire of

Your loving Friends,

John Bull,
Nic. Frog.

Some of Bull's Friends advised him to take gentler Methods with the young Lord; but John naturally lov'd rough Play. It is impossible to express the Surprize of the Lord Strutt upon the Receipt of this Letter; he was not flush in Ready, either to go to Law or clear old Debts, neither could he find good Bail: He offer'd to bring Matters to a friendly Accommodation; and promis'd upon his Word of Honour, that he would not change his Drapers; but all to no purpose, for Bull and Frog saw clearly, that old Lewis would have the Cheating of him.

C H A P. IV.

How Bull and Frog went to Law with Lord Strutt about the Premisses, and were joined by the rest of the Tradesmen.

ALL Endeavours of Accommodation between Lord Strutt and his Drapers prov'd vain; Jealousies encreas'd, and indeed it was rumour'd abroad that Lord Strutt had bespoke his new Liveries of old Lewis Baboon. This coming to Mrs. Bull's Ears, when John Bull came Home he found all his Family in an uproar. Mrs. Bull you must know was very apt to be Cholerick. You See, says she, you're
loyter

loyter about Alehouses and Taverns, spend your Time at Billiards, Nine-pins or Puppet-shows, or flaunt about the Streets in your new gilt Chariot, never minding me nor your numerous Family; don't you hear how Lord Strutt has bespoke his Liveries at Lewis Baboon's Shop? don't you see how that old Fox steals away your Customers, and turns you out of your Business every day, and you sit like an idle Drone with your hands in your Pockets? Fie upon't, up Man, rouse thy self; I'll sell to my Shift before I'll be so used by that Knaave. You must think Mrs Bull had been pretty well tun'd up by Frog, who chim'd in with her learn'd Harangue. No further delay now, but to Counsel learned in the Law they go, who unanimously assur'd 'em both of the Justice and infallible Success of their Law-Suit.

I told you before, that old Lewis Baboon was a sort of a Jack of all Trades, which made the rest of the Tradesmen jealous, as well as Bull and Frog; they hearing of the Quarrel, were glad of an Opportunity of joining against old Lewis Baboon, provided that Bull and Frog would bear the Charges of the Suit; even Lying Ned the Chimney-sweeper and Tom the Dustman put in their Claims, and the Cause was put into the Hands of Humphrey Hocus the Attorney.

A Declaration was drawn up to shew, ' That Bull
' and Frog had undoubted Right by Prescription to
' be Drapers to the Lord Strutts; that there were
' were several old Contracts to that purpose; that
' Lewis Baboon had taken up the Trade of Clothier
' and Draper, without serving his Time, or purchasing his Freedom; that he sold Goods that
' were not Marketable, without the Stamp that
' he himself was more fit for a Bully than a Tradesman, and went about through all the Country
' Fairs challenging People to fight Prizes, Wrestling and Cudgel-Play: and abundance more to this purpose.

C H A P. V.

*The true Characters of John Bull, Nic: Frog,
and Hocus.*

FOR the better understanding the following History, the Reader ought to know, That *Bull*, in the main, was an honest plain-dealing Fellow, Cholerick; Bold; and of a very unconstant Temper, he dreaded not Old *Lewis* either at Back-Sword, single Faulcion, or Cudgel-play; but then he was very apt to quarrel with his best Friends, especially if they pretended to govern him: If you flatter'd him, you might lead him like a Child. *John's* Temper depended very much upon the Air; his Spirits rose and fell with the Weather-glass. *John* was quick, and understood his business very well, but no Man alive was more careless, in looking into his Accounts, or more cheated by Partners, Apprentices, and Servants: This was occasioned by his being a Boon-Companion, loving his Bottle and his Diversion; for to say Truth, no Man kept a better House than *John*, nor spent his Money more generously. By plain and fair dealing, *John* had acquir'd some Plumbs, and might have kept them, had it not been for his unhappy Law-Suit.

Nic: Frog was a cunning fly Whoreson, quite the reverse of *John* in many Particulars; Covetous, Frugal; minded domestick Affairs; would pine his Belly to save his Pocket, never lost a Farthing by careless Servants, or bad Debtors: He did not care much for any sort of Diversions, except Tricks of *High German* Artists, and *Leger de main*; no Man exceded *Nic* in these, yet it must be own'd, That *Nic* was a fair Dealer, and in that had acquir'd immense Riches.

Hocus was an old cunning Attorney, what he wanted of Skill in Law, was made up by a Clerk which he kept, that was the prettiest Fellow in the World; he lov'd Money, was smooth-tongu'd, gave good Words, and seldom lost his Temper: He was not worse than an Infidel; for he provided plentifully for his Family, but he lov'd himself better than them all: He had a termagant Wife, and, as the Neighbours said, was plaguy Hen-peck'd; he was seldom observed, as some Attornies will practice, to give his own personal Evidence in Causes; he rather chose to do it *per test. conduct.* in a word, the Man was very well for an Attorney.

CHAP. VI.

Of the various Success of the Law-Suit.

LAW is a Bottomless-Pit, it is a Cormorant, a Harpy, that devours every thing; *John Bull* was flatter'd by his Lawyers that his Suit would not last above a Year or two at most; that before that time he would be in quiet possession of his Business; yet ten long Years did *Hocus* steer his Cause through all the Meanders of the Law, and all the Courts; no Skill, no Address, was wanting; and to say Truth, *John* did not starve the Cause; there wanted not Tellow-boys to fee Counsel, hire Witnesses, and bribe Juries. Lord *Scrutt* was generally Cast, never had one Verdict in his favour; and *John* was promis'd, That the next and the next would be the final Determination; but alas! that final Determination, and happy Conclusion was like an enchanted Island, the nearer *John* came to it, the further it went from him; New Tryals upon new Points still arose; new Doubts, new Matters to be cleared; in short, Lawyers seldom part with so good a Cause till they have

got the Oyster, and their Clients the Shell. *John's* ready Money, Book-Debts, Bonds, Mortgages, all went into the Lawyers Pockets; then *John* began to borrow Money upon *Bank-Stock*, *East-India* Bonds, now and then a Farm went to Pot: At last it was thought a good Expedient to set up *Esquire South's* Title to prove the Will forg'd, and dispossess *Philip Lord Scrutt* at once; here again was a new Field for the Lawyers, and the Cause grew more intricate than ever. *John* grew madder and madder; wherever he met any of *Lord Scrutt's* Servants he tore off their Cloaths: Now and then you would see them come home naked, without Shoes, Stockings, and Linnen. As for Old *Lewis Baboon*, he was reduc'd to his last Shift, tho' he had as many as any other: His Children were reduced from rich Silks to *Doily* Stuffs, his Servants in Rags and bare-footed, instead of good Victuals, they now lived upon Neck-Beef, and Bullocks-Liver; in short, no Body got much by the Matter, but the Men of Law.

C H A P. VII.

How John Bull was so mightily pleas'd with his Success, that he was going to leave off his Trade, and turn Lawyer.

IT is wisely observed by a great Philosopher, That Habit is a second Nature: This was verifi'd in the Case of *John Bull*, who from an honest and plain Tradesman, had got such a haunt about the Courts of Justice, and such a Jargon of Law-words, That he concluded himself as able a Lawyer, as any that pleaded at the Bar, or sat on the Bench: He was overheard one Day, talking to himself after this manner, "How capriciously does Fate or Chance
" dispose of Mankind? How seldom is that Busi-
" ness

“ nefs allotted to a Man for which he is fitted by
 “ Nature ? It is plain, I was intended for a Man
 “ of Law : How did my Guardians mistake my Ge-
 “ nius, in placing me, like a mean Slave, behind a
 “ Counter ? Bless me ! What immense Estates these
 “ Fellows raise by the Law ? Besides, it is the Pro-
 “ fession of a Gentleman : What a Pleasure it is to
 “ be victorious in a Cause ? To swagger at the Bar ?
 “ What a Fool am I to drudge any more in this
 “ Woollen-Trade ? for a Lawyer I was born, and
 “ a Lawyer I will be ; one is never too Old to
 “ learn”. All this while *John* had con’d over such
 a Catalogue of hard Words, as were enough to con-
 jure up the Devil ; these he used to bubble indif-
 ferently in all Companies, especially at Coffee-hou-
 ses ; so that his Neighbour Tradesmen began to shun
 his Company as a Man that was crack’d. Instead
 of the Affairs of *Blackwell-Hall*, and Price of Broad-
 cloath, Wool, and Bayes, he talk’d of nothing but
Actions upon the Case, Returns, Capias, Alias capias, De-
murrers, Venire facias, Replevins, Superseda’s, Cartiora-
ri’s, Writs of Error, Actions of Trover and Conversion,
Trespases, Precipes & Dedimus : This was matter of
 Jest to the learned in Law ; however *Hocus*, and the
 rest of the Tribe, encourag’d *John* in his Fancy, af-
 furing him, That he had a great Genius for Law ;
 That they question’d not but in time, he might raise
 Money enough by it to reimburse him of all his
 Charges ; That if he study’d, he would undoubted-
 ly arrive to the Dignity of a Lord Chief Justice ; as
 for the Advice of honest Friends and Neighbours,
John despis’d it ; he look’d upon them as Fellows of
 a low Genius, poor grovelling Mechanicks ; *John*
 reckon’d it more Honour to have got one favourable
 Verdict, than to have sold a Bale of Broad-cloath.
 As for *Nic. Frog*, to say the Truth, he was more
 prudent, for tho’ he follow’d his Law-Suit close-
 ly, he neglected not his ordinary Business, but
 was

was both in Court and in his Shop at the proper Hours.

C H A P. VIII.

How John discover'd that Hocus had an Intrigue with his Wife, and what follow'd thereupon.

John had not run on a madding so long, had it not been for an extravagant Bitch of a Wife, whom *Hocus* perceiving *John* to be fond of, was resolv'd to win over to his side. It is a true saying, *That the last Man of the Parish that knows of his Cuckoldom, is himself.* It was observed by all the Neighbourhood, that *Hocus* had Dealings with *John's* Wife, that were not so much for his Honour; but this was perceiv'd by *John* a little too late: She was a luxurious Jade, lov'd splendid Equipages, Plays, Treats and Balls, differing very much from the sober Manners of her Ancesters, and by no means fit for a Tradesman's Wife. *Hocus* fed her Extravagancy (what was still more shameful) with *John's* own Money. Every body said that *Hocus* had a Months mind to her Body; be that as it will, it is matter of Fact, that upon all occasions she run out extravagantly on the Praise of *Hocus*. When *John* us'd to be finding fault with his Bills, she us'd to reproach him as ungrateful to his greatest Benefactor; One that had taken so much pains in his Law-Suit, and retriev'd his Family from the Oppression of Old *Lewis Baboon*. A good swinging Sum of *John's* readiest Cash, went towards building of *Hocus's* Country-House. This Affair between *Hocus* and Mrs. *Bull* was now so open, that all the World were scandaliz'd at it; *John* was not so Clod-pated, but at last he took the Hint. The Parson of the Parish preaching one Day a little sharply against Adultery, Mrs. *Bull* told her Husband,

band, That he was a very uncivil Fellow to use such course Language before People of Condition; That *Hocus* was of the same mind, and that they would join to have him turn'd out of his Living for using personal Reflections. How do you mean, says *John*, by personal Reflections? I hope in God, Wife, he did not reflect upon you. " No, thank God, my Reputation is too well established in the World " to receive any hurt from such a foul-mouth'd " Scoundrel as he; his Doctrine tends only to make " Husbands Tyrants, and Wives Slaves; must we " be shut up, and Husbands left to their liberty? " Very pretty indeed; a Wife must never go abroad " with a Platonick to see a Play or a Ball, she must " never stir without her Husband; nor walk in " *Spring-Garden* with a Confin. I do say, Husband, " and I will stand by it, That without the innocent " Freedoms of Life, Matrimony would be a most " intolerable State; and that a Wife's Vertue, ought " to be the result of her own Reason, and not of her " Husband's Government; for my part, I would " scorn a Husband that would be Jealous, if he saw " a Fellow a-bed with me". All this while *John's* Blood boil'd in his Veins, he was now confirm'd in all his Suspicions; Jade, Bitch and Whore were the best Words that *John* gave her. Things went from better to worse, 'till Mrs. *Bull* aim'd a Knife at *John*, tho' *John* threw a Bottle at her Head very brutally indeed: After this there was nothing but Confusion; Bottles, Glasses, Spoons, Plates, Knives, Forks, and Dishes flew about like Dust, the result of which was, That Mrs. *Bull* receiv'd a bruise in her Right-side, of which she dy'd half a Year after: The Bruise imposthumated, and afterwards turn'd to a stinking Ulcer, which made every body shie to come near her she smelt so; yet she wanted not the help of many able Physicians, who attended very diligently, and did what Men of Skill could do,

do, but all to no purpose, for her Condition was now quite desperate, all regular Physicians and her nearest Relations having giv'n her over.

CH A P. IX.

How Signior Cavallo, an Italian Quack, undertook to Cure Mrs. Bull of her Ulcer.

THERE is nothing so impossible in Nature, but Mountebanks will undertake; nothing so incredible, but they will affirm: Mrs. Bull's Condition was look'd upon as desperate by all the Men of Art; then Signior Cavallo judg'd it was high time for him to interpose, he bragg'd that he had an infallible Ointment and Plaister, which being applied to the Sore would Cure it in a few Days; at the same time he would give her a Pill that would purge off all her bad Humours, sweeten her Blood, and rectifie her disturb'd Imagination: In spite of all Signior Cavallo's Applications the Patient grew worse, every Day she stank so no Body durst come within a Stone's throw of her, except Signior Cavallo and his Wife, whom he sent every Day to Dress her, she having a very gentle soft Hand. All this while Signior apprehended no Danger. If one ask'd him how Mrs. Bull did? Better and better, says Signior Cavallo; the Parts heal, and her Constitution mends; if she submits to my Government, she will be abroad in a little time. Nay it is reported, that he wrote to her Friends in the Country, that she should dance a Jig next *October* in *Westminster-Hall*; that her Illness had been chiefly owing to bad Physicians. At last Signior one Day was sent for in great haste, his Patient growing worse and worse; when he came he affirmed, that it was a gross Mi-
makes

stake, that she was never in a fairer way : Bring hither the Salve, says he, and give her a plentiful Draught of my Cordial. As he was applying his Ointments, and administering the Cordial, the Patient gave up the Ghost, to the great Confusion of Signior Cavallo, and the great Joy of Bull and his Friends. Signior flung away out of the House in great disorder, and swore there was foul Play, for he was sure his Medicines were infallible. Mrs. Bull having dy'd without any Signs of Repentance or Devotion, the Clergy would hardly allow her Christian Burial. The Relations had once resolved to sue John for the Murder, but considering better of it, and that such a Trial would rip up old Sores, and discover things not so much to the Reputation of the Deceased, they drop'd their Design. She left no Will, only there was found in her strong Box the following Words wrote on a scrip of Paper, *My Curse on John Bull and all my Posterity, if ever they come to any Composition with my Lord Strutt.* There were many Epitaphs writ upon her, one was as follows :

*Here lies John's Wife,
Plague of his Life;
She spent his Wealth,
She wrong'd his Health,
And left him Daughters three
As bad as she.*

The Daughters Names were *Potemia, Discordia and Usuria.*

C H A P. X.

*Of John Bull's second Wife, and the good Advice
that she gave him.*

J O H N quickly got the better of his Grief, and being that neither his Constitution, nor the Affairs of his Family could permit him to live in an unmarried State, he resolv'd to get him another Wife; a Cousin of his last Wife's was propos'd, but John would have no more of the Breed: In short, he wedded a sober Country Gentlewoman, of a good Family, and a plentiful Fortune; the reverse of the other in her Temper, not but that she lov'd Mony, for she was of a saving Temper, and apply'd her Fortune to pay John's clamorous Debts, that the unfrugal Methods of his last Wife, and this ruinous Law Suit, had brought him into. One day, as she had got her Husband in good Humour, she talk'd to him after the following manner. • My Dear, since
• I have been your Wife I have observ'd great Abuses
• and Disorders in your Family; your Servants are
• mutinous and quarrelsome, and cheat you most abominably; your Cook-Maid is in a Combination
• with your Butcher, Poulterer and Fishmonger;
• your Butler purloins your Liquor, and your Brewer
• sells your Hogwash; your Baker cheats both in
• Weight and in Tale; even your Milkwoman and
• your Nursery-Maid have a Fellow-feeling; your
• Taylor, instead of Shreds, cabages whole Yards of
• Cloath; besides leaving such long Scores, and not
• going to Market with ready Mony, forces us to
• take bad Ware of the Tradesmen, at their own
• Price. You have not posted your Books these Ten
• Years; how is it possible for a Man of Business to
• keep his Affairs even in the World at this rate?
• Pray

‘ Pray God this *Hocus* be honest; would to God you
 ‘ would look over his Bills, and see how Matters
 ‘ stand between *Frog* and you; prodigious Sums are
 ‘ spent in this Law Suit, and more must be borrow’d
 ‘ of Scriveners and Usurers at heavy Interest; be-
 ‘ sides, my Dear, let me beg of you to lay aside that
 ‘ wild Project of leaving your Business to turn Law-
 ‘ yer, for which, let me tell you, Nature never de-
 ‘ sign’d you. Believe me, these Rogues do but flat-
 ‘ ter, that they may pick your Pocket. *John* heard
 her all this while with patience, ‘till she prick’d his
 Maggot, and touch’d him in the tender point; then
 he broke out into a violent Passion, ‘ What, I not fit
 ‘ for a Lawyer! let me tell you, my Clodpated Re-
 ‘ lations spoil’d the greatest Genins in World, when
 ‘ they bred me a Mechanick. Lord *Strutt* and his
 ‘ old Rogue of a Grandfire have found to their Cost,
 ‘ that I can manage a Law Suit as well as another.
 ‘ I don’t deny what you, says *Mrs. Bull*, nor do I
 ‘ call in question your Parts, but I say it does not
 ‘ suit with your Circumstances; you and your Pre-
 ‘ decessors have liv’d in good Reputation among
 ‘ your Neighbours by this same Cloathing Trade,
 ‘ and it were madness to leave it off. Besides, there
 ‘ are few that know all the Tricks and Cheats of
 ‘ these Lawyers; does not your own Experience
 ‘ teach you how they have drawn you on from one
 ‘ Term to another, and how you have danc’d the
 ‘ Round of all the Courts, still flattering you with
 ‘ a final Issue, and for ought I can see your Cause is
 ‘ not a bit clearer than it was seven Years ago. I
 ‘ will be Damn’d, says *John*, if I accept of any Com-
 ‘ position from *Strutt* or his Grandfather; I’ll rather
 ‘ wheel about the Streets an Engine to grind Knives
 ‘ and Scissors; however I’ll take your Advice, and
 ‘ look over my Accounts.

C H A P. XI.

How John look'd over his Attorney's Bill.

WHEN John first brought out the Bills, the Surprize of all the Family was unexpressible, at the prodigious Dimensions of them; in short, they would have measur'd with the best Bale of Cloath in John's Shop. Fees to Judges, puny Judges, Clerks, Prothonotories, Phillizers, Chirographers, Underclerks, Proclamators, Counsel, Witnesses, Jury-men, Marshals, Tipstuffs, Cryers, Porters; for Enrollings, Exemplifications, Bails, Vouchers, Returns, Caveats, Examinations, Filings of Words, Entries, Declarations, Replications, Recordats, *Nolle Prosequi's*, *Certiorari's*, *Mittimus*, Demurrers, Special Verdicts, Informations, *Scire Facias*, *Superfedeas*, *Habeas Corpus*, Coach-hire, Treating of Witnesses, &c. Verily, says John, there are a prodigious Number of learned Words in this Law, what a pretty Science it is! Ay, but Husband, you have paid for every Syllable and Letter of these fine Words; blefs me, what immense Sums are at the bottom of the Accompt! John spent several Weeks in looking over his Bills, and by comparing and stating his Accompts, he discovered that, besides the Extravagance of every Article, he had been egregiously Cheated; that he had paid for Counsel that were never fee'd, for Writs that were never drawn, for Dinners that were never dress'd, and Journeys that were never made: In short, that *Hocus* and *Frog* had agreed to throw the Burden of the Law-Suit upon his Shoulders.

C H A P. XII.

How John grew Angry, resolved to accept a Composition; and what Methods were practis'd by the Lawyers for keeping him from it.

WELL might the Learn'd *Daniel Burgess* say, That a *Law-Suit* is a *Suit for Life*. He that sows his Grain upon Marble, will have many a hungry Belly before Harvest. This *John* felt by woful Experience. *John's* Cause was a good milch Cow, and many a Man subsisted his Family out of it. However *John* began to think it high time to look about him; he had a Cousin in the Country, one *Sir Roger Bold*, whose Predecessors had been bred up to the Law, and knew as much of it as any body; but having left off the Profession for some time, they took great pleasure in Compounding Law-Suits amongst their Neighbours, for which they were the Aversion of the Gentlemen of the Long Robe, and at perpetual War with all the Country Attorneys. *John* put his Cause in *Sir Roger's* Hands, desiring him to make the best of it; the News had no sooner reach'd the Ears of the Lawyers, but they were all in an uproar: They brought all the rest of the Tradesmen upon *John*: 'Squire *South* swore he was betray'd, that he would starve before he compounded; *Frog* said he was highly wrong'd; ev'n lying *Ned* the Chimney-sweeper, and *Tom* the Dust-man complain'd, that their Interest was sacrific'd: As for *Hocus's* Wife, she took a Hackney-Chair and came to *John's* House immediately, and fell a scolding at his Wife like the Mother of *Belzebub*, 'You silly, aukward, ill-bred, Country Sow you, have you no more Manners than to rail at my Husband, that has sav'd that Clod-pated, Num-skull'd

' skull'd Ninny-hammer of yours from Ruin, and
 ' all his Family? it is well known how he has rose
 ' early and sate up late to make him easy, when he
 ' was Sotting at every Ale-house in Town. I knew
 ' his last Wife, she was a Woman of breeding, good
 ' humour, and complaisance, knew how to live in
 ' the World; as for you, you look like a Puppet
 ' mov'd by Clock-work; your Cloaths hang up-
 ' on you, as they were upon Tenter-hooks, and
 ' you come into a Room as you were going to
 ' steal away a Piss-pot; get you gone into the
 ' Country to look after your Mothers Poultry, to
 ' milk the Cows, churn the Butter, and dress
 ' up Nofegays for a Holy-day, and meddle not
 ' with Matters that you know no more of, than
 ' the Sign-post before your Door: It is well known
 ' that my Husband has an establish'd Reputation,
 ' he never swore an Oath, nor told a Lie in all his
 ' Life: He is grateful to his Benefactors, faithful
 ' to his Friends, liberal to his Dependants, and du-
 ' tiful to his Superiours; he values not your Money
 ' more than the Dust under his Feet, but he hates
 ' to be abus'd: Once for all, Mrs. *Mynx*, leave off
 ' talking of my Husband, or I will pull out these
 ' Saucer-Eyes of yours, and make that red-streak
 ' Country-face look as raw as an Ox-Cheek upon a
 ' Butcher's Stall; remember, I say, that there are
 ' Pillories and Ducking-stools'. With this, away
 she flung, leaving Mrs. *Bull* no time to reply: No
 Stone was left unturn'd to fright *John* from this
 Composition. Sometimes they spread Reports at
 Coffee-houses, that *John* and his Wife were run
 mad; that they intended to give up House, and
 make over all their Estate to old *Lewis Baboon*; That
John had been often heard talking to himself, and
 seen in the Streets without Shoes or Stockings; That
 he did nothing from Morning to Night but beat his
 Servants,

Servants, after having been the best Master alive; as for his Wife, she was a meer Natural. Sometimes *John's* House was beset with a whole Regiment of Attorneys Clerks, Bailiff and Bailiffs Followers, and other small retainers of the Law, who threw Stones at his Windows, and Dirt at himself, as he went along the Street. When *John* complain'd of want of ready Money to carry on his Suit, they advis'd him to pawn his Plate and Jewels, and that Mrs. *Bull* should sell her Linnen and wearing Cloaths.

C H A P. XIII.

How the Lawyers agreed to send Don Diego Dillmallo, the Conjuror, to John Bull, to dissuade him from making an end of his Law-Suit; and what pass'd between them.

Bull. **H**OW does my good Friend Don Diego? *Don.* Never worse. Who can be easie when their Friends are playing the Fool?

Bull. But then you may be easie, for I am resolv'd to play the Fool no longer: I wish I had hearken'd to your Advice, and compounded this Law-Suit sooner.

Don. It is true: I was then against the ruinous ways of this Law-Suit, but looking over my Scheme since, I find there is an Error in my Calculation. *Sol* and *Jupiter* were in a wrong House, but I have now discovered their true Places: I tell you I find that the Stars are unanimously of Opinion, That you will be successful in this Cause; That *Love* will come to an untimely End, and *Strutt* will be turn'd out of Doors by his Wife and Children.

Thea

Then he went on with a Torrent of Eclypticks, Cycles, Epicycles, Ascendants, Trines, Quadrants, Conjunctions, Bulls, Bears, Goats, and Rams, and abundance of hard Words, which being put together, signify'd nothing: John all this while stood gaping and staring, like a Man in a Trance.

F I N I S.

CHAP. XIII.

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